

Iowa Student Loan Community Reinvestments

Iowa Student Loan® recognizes how encouraging Iowa students to enter critical job shortage areas can positively influence the state's economic development. The organization's community reinvestment programs encourage nursing and teaching students to enter specified shortage areas. Iowa Student Loan has forgiven more than \$2.5 million in student loans over recent years through programs for nurses and teachers. The Iowa Student Loan board of directors approved updated grant programs to replace its loan forgiveness programs in summer 2010. Beginning Dec. 1, 2010, new teachers and graduate-level nurse education students were able to apply for grants in recognition of their work in shortage areas.

Iowa Student Loan Nurse Educator Grant

The Iowa Student Loan Nurse Educator Grant helps graduate-level nurse education students who are also teaching in a nursing program at an Iowa college or university. The program awards as many as 32 grants of up to \$4,000 to nurse education students each academic year. Grants of up to \$2,000 for each term are made to qualifying applicants to help offset costs related to their educational programs. Students who have already received an initial grant will be given priority for awards for subsequent terms. Between Dec. 1, 2010, and Jan. 24, 2011, Nurse Educator Grants were awarded to 14 graduate-level nurse education students working as classroom or clinical instructors at Iowa colleges and universities.

Iowa Student Loan Teacher Career Establishment Grant

A similar program is designed to help new teachers in Iowa with startup costs to become established in their chosen career. As many as 62 nonrenewable grants of up to \$2,000 are available to new classroom teachers who:

- ▶ Graduated in fall 2010 or will graduate in spring or summer 2011.
- ▶ Are certified in a state-designated shortage area in Iowa.
- ▶ Are contracted to begin their first teaching job in a shortage area after Jan. 1, 2011.

Between Dec. 1, 2010, and Jan. 24, 2011, Teacher Career Establishment Grants were awarded to nine first-year teachers working in subject-shortage areas across Iowa.

Loan Forgiveness Programs

Nearly 250 nurses and almost 300 teachers have already been approved to receive a total of more than \$2.5 million in loan forgiveness through the Iowa Student Loan Nursing and Teacher Education Loan Forgiveness programs. These recipients are not affected by the new grant programs and will continue to receive loan forgiveness benefits.

Iowa Student Loan Armed Forces Interest Reduction Program

As thousands of U.S. military service members continue to serve in wartime efforts, Iowa Student Loan is doing its part to help them on the home front. The Iowa Student Loan board voted to continue its Armed Forces Interest Rate Reduction Program for service members entering federal active duty through Dec. 31, 2011.

The program recognizes service members who are or have been deployed for wartime efforts since Sept. 11, 2001, by reducing interest to 0% on their private loans owned by Iowa Student Loan. The interest rate reduction is good for up to 24 months. The interest rate reduction means one less thing for service members and their families to worry about during active military duty.

As of Dec. 31, 2010, more than \$560,000 in student loan interest had been forgiven on 551 service members' student loans.

